

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 02548 151157Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1561

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 2548

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJ: CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH FOR FRANCO

REF: MADRID 1070

1. DR. MANUEL HIDALGO HUERTA, WHO ATTENDED FRANCO IN SUMMER 1974 FOR STOMACH HEMORRHAGING TOLD INTERVIEWER OF "EL IDEAL GALLEGO" APRIL 13 THAT "CAUDILLO HAD ABSOLUTELY NO INTESTINAL OR GASTRIC ABNORMALITY OF ANY TYPE". CONTRARY TO REPORTS CIRCULATED AT TIME, HIDALGO SAID THAT FRANCO, IN SPITE OF HEMORRHAGING, WAS NEVER IN "EXTREMELY SERIOUS CONDITION", INASMUCH AS HIS PULSE AND BLOOD PRESSURE HARDLY VARIED FROM NORMAL. MOREOVER, "EL CAUDILLO HAS AN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCULATION." HIDALGO REPORTED THAT FRANCO LOST ABOUT ONE LITER OF BLOOD WHICH WAS REPLACED WITH SEVERAL TRANSFUSIONS.

2. HIDALGO WAS ONE OF SPECIALISTS CALLED IN TO TREAT FRANCO IN JULY 1974 AND LAST SAW HIM IN NOVEMBER 1974 WHEN HE FOUND CAUDILLO "VERY GOOD" AFTER HAVING GAINED A FEW POUNDS.

3. COMMENT: QUESTION TO DR. HIDALGO ABOUT POSSIBLE INTESTINAL ABNORMALITY PRESUMABLY STEMS FROM SPECULATION THAT HAS RECURRENT SINCE FRANCO'S ILLNESS LAST JULY THAT FRANCO'S INTESTINAL HEMORRHAGE FOLLOWING USE OF ANTICOAGULANTS INDICATED PRESENCE OF SOME INTERNAL MALIGNANCY.

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STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
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